WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. An analyte-taking device comprising:

a tube provided at one end with an analyte-taking element;

a plug inside the tube; and

at least one liquid contained in an inside space of the tube separated from the analyte-taking element at least by the plug, the plug being arranged, in use, to be expelled together with the liquid towards the analyte-taking element,

wherein the liquid is one of:

an analyte-taking liquid for facilitating a taking of at least one analyte by the analyte-taking element; and

a reagent suitable for producing an observable reaction in the presence of an analyte picked up by the analyte-taking element.

2. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid is an analyte-taking liquid.

3. The device according to Claim 2, wherein the analyte-taking liquid is selected from the group consisting of chloroform, ethyl acetate, alcohols, chlorine-containing solvents, acetone, short esters, aqueous solutions of methanol, and solutions of chloroform and ethanol.

4. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid is a reagent.

5. The device according to Claim 4, wherein the analyte-taking element is pre-impregnated with an analyte-taking liquid.

6. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the analyte-taking element is porous.

7. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the analyte-taking element is fibrous.

8. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the analyte-taking element is selected from the group consisting of a cotton bud, a foam bud, a flocked bud, a felt tip, and a tip made of ceramic or of sintered material.

9. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the plug comprises a liquid selected from the group consisting of mineral oils, fluorine-containing substances, and silicones.

10. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the plug comprises a powder selected from the group consisting of powders of microspheres of copolymers, of Nylon®, of waxes, of silicas, and of silicones.

11. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the inside space of the tube is defined, at an end remote from the plug by a portion that can be broken off, removed, perforated, or deformed.

12. The device according to Claim 11, further comprising a retaining element for retaining the break-off portion on the analyte-taking device after it has been broken off.

13. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid in the tube has a volume in a range from 0.01 ml to 5 ml.

14. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid in the tube has a volume in a range from 0.05 ml to 1 ml.

15. The device of Claim 1, wherein said plug is one of a liquid and a powder.

16. A kit for taking and analyzing an analyte, the kit comprising:

at least one analyte-taking device comprising:

a tube provided at one end with an analyte-taking element;

a plug inside the tube;

at least one analyte-taking liquid contained in an inside space of the tube separated from the analyte-taking element at least by the plug, the analyte-taking liquid being suitable for facilitating a taking of at least one analyte, the plug being arranged in use to be expelled together with the analyte-taking liquid; and

a reagent suitable for producing an observable reaction in the presence of the analyte picked up by the analyte-taking element.

17. The kit according to Claim 16, further comprising a box including at least one compartment in which said at least one analyte-taking device is housed.

18. The kit according to Claim 16, further comprising at least one packaging bag containing said at least one analyte-taking device.

19. The kit of Claim 16, wherein said plug is one of a liquid and a powder.

20. A method of detecting at least one of a presence and a concentration of at least one analyte at a surface of a tissue of an individual, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an analyte-taking device comprising a tube, a plug inside said tube, at least one analyte-taking liquid contained in an inside space of the tube defined at a first end by the plug, and an analyte-taking element at one end of the tube, separated from the analyte-taking liquid by the plug;

opening the tube so as to allow the analyte-taking liquid to leave the tube, the plug being suitable for being expelled together with the analyte-taking liquid;

taking at least one analyte with the analyte-taking element; and

putting the analyte into contact with a reagent suitable for producing an observable reaction in the presence of said analyte or in the presence of a determined concentration of the analyte.

21. A device for sampling an analyte, comprising:

a container having a first end which is open and a second end which is closed in a first position;

a removable plug inside said container, wherein said plug isolates a volume inside said container from said first open end in said first position;

a reagent inside said volume, said reagent being capable of reacting with said analyte; and

an element capable of receiving said analyte, said element being provided over said first open end of said container.

22. The device of Claim 21, wherein said element comprises an absorbent material.

23. The device of Claim 21, wherein said container is transparent.

24. The device of Claim 21, wherein said container is a tube.

25. The device of Claim 21, wherein said container includes a multilayer structure.

26. The device of Claim 21, wherein said reagent produces a colored reaction with said analyte.

27. The device of Claim 21, wherein said element is provided in an hermetically sealed packaging.

28. The device of Claim 21, wherein said element is curved in shape, with a portion extending along a longitudinal axis which does not coincide with a longitudinal axis of the container.

29. The device of Claim 21, wherein said reagent comprises at least two reagents in at least two different phases, each phase occupying a portion of said volume.

30. The device of Claim 29, wherein said at least two reagents are liquid reagents.

31. The device of Claim 29, wherein one of said at least two reagents is solid and another is liquid.

32. The device of Claim 21, wherein said second end is movable from said first position to a second position which is open, said reagent being in communication with said element via said first end in said second position.

33. The device of Claim 32, wherein said second end is capable of plugging said container after the second end has moved to said second position.

34. A system for sampling an analyte, comprising:

a packaging;

a plurality of analyte-taking devices provided in said packaging, each analyte-taking device comprising:

a tube capable of containing a solution,

a first end which is open,

a second end which is closed in a first position, and

a removable plug inside said tube, each tube being coupled to an element comprising an absorbent material; and

a reagent capable of reacting with said analyte.

35. The system of Claim 34, wherein said packaging includes a plurality of strips and said reagent is provided on said strips.

36. The system of Claim 34, wherein said tube for each of said devices contains said solution.

37. The system of Claim 36, wherein said solution is an analyte-taking liquid.

38. The system of Claim 36, wherein said solution is said reagent.

39. The system of Claim 36, wherein said plug defines a closed volume for said solution between said plug and said second end in said first position.

40. The device of Claim 39, wherein said solution is in communication with said element via said first open end in said second position.

41. The system of Claim 40, wherein said second end is attached to said container in said second position.

42. The system of Claim 34, wherein said packaging comprises a box.

43. The system of Claim 34, wherein said packaging comprises a string of bags, with an analyte-taking device in each of said bags.

44. The system of Claim 34, wherein said packaging comprises:

a stand; and

a body mounted on said stand.

45. The system of Claim 44, wherein each of said analyte-taking devices has a portion extending outside said body, and wherein said packaging further comprises a closure cap coupled to said body so as to cover said portions.